



SHAVINGS, SAWDUST and SPLINTERS

April 1994

from the president:

Hello Again Collectors,

We've had several great meetings already this year in the Colorado Area with nearly 50 in attendance at two of the meetings. I understand New Mexico has had 17 at a recent meeting. Way to go!

I have to say, I haven't been able to figure out what it's going to take to get some of you to a meeting. Personally, I've had more fun than is probably legal! If you haven't been to a meeting in a while I dare you to try it again. There are meetings all over the front range this year - There's got to be a meeting near you!!

Our next event will be the joint meeting in Trinidad May 14th & 15th. Check elsewhere in this newsletter and in the enclosed flyer for all the exciting details. We'll

have 30 lots (still coming from the Charlie Atkinson estate) to auction and we can only hope to have as much fun as last year!!

In June the Colorado Area parking lot sale will be on the 4th and there are meetings planned for the 11th in Albuquerque and the 12th in Boulder. The next Colorado Area meeting will be in Colorado Springs July 24th and the New Mexico Area will meet August 13th. Remember, all the dates and places are in the front of your membership directory.

It's not too early to start making plans for the Labor Day Annual Meeting in Albuquerque. It's a joint meeting of RMTC, Southwest Tool Collectors and Mid-West Tool Collectors Area L. I'm expecting 150 or more and it should be the best meeting in our history. Plan NOW to be a partici-

pant!!

The one area I've committed to "improving," I hope, is to include some type of educational feature at most of the Colorado Area meetings. It will be either a demonstration or talk to improve our knowledge of a tool related subject. I envision the program lasting approximately 30 minutes.

I can't make this happen without your help. Several of you have already stepped forward to volunteer, but I need to hear from more of you. If you would like to have a particular subject talked about I will do my best to find a speaker on that subject. Did I really say that?

Until next time: Happy tool hunting.

Don't miss this one!

**RMTC Interim Joint Meeting
New Mexico Area & Colorado Area
Holiday Inn - Trinidad Colorado
May 14 -15**

NO ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED EXCEPT FOR YOUR ROOM

SEE ENCLOSED FLYER FOR DETAILS

in this issue:

- Harroun apprenticeship
- Early Dutch tools
- Trinidad Mtg. Info.
- New Mexico Area news
- Colorado Area news
- our newest members

DECEMBER NEW MEXICO AREA MEETING

Our December 11th meeting at the home of Doug and Rosie Fritzsche was, as always, a lot of fun and educational. Doug and Rosie have just recently moved into a beautiful new adobe home in Albuquerque's north valley just a little north of Bill McDougall's home in a prime area and Dave Fessler's home which is in a urban renewal district.

Several members brought tools to sell and I was able to unload, I mean sell a few of mine.

While working on the five gallons of chile con carne which Doug had prepared, we checked out his collection of Stanley planes. It looks as though he is serious about this as he has quite a few good pieces.

Speaking of Stanley tools, our super expert on the Stanley Company, who prefers to remain nameless, swears that while examining an old etching of the building of the ark, he spotted an early Stanley 45 plane lying on the ground among some wood shavings. It sounds far out, but he says he can prove it! Not only that, but he has promised to bring a Stanley twybil (pre-lateral, I think) to our next meeting.

We had a good turnout (1/3 of N.M. members). Three members joined the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association. When we receive our new M-WTCA membership rosters, we will find out if we have enough Area L members to elect a second director. A couple of well known collectors are very interested in running for this position. My term runs through 1996.

The meeting adjourned peacefully around 5:30 p.m.

-Bill McDougall

**Denver Area
Parking Lot
Tool Sale
June 4**

In Memory of Ray Rossi

Ray Rossi, a member of RMTC since 1991, passed away on March 17. He was 47.

He was also a founding member and past president of the Rocky Mountain Smiths. He practiced blacksmithing at living history events, local museums and for friends.

He is survived by his mother Nellie, wife Harriet, a son Keith and a daughter, Stephanie.

Ray will be sorely missed by his colleagues, community and fellow tool collectors. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Harriet and her family at their loss.



Memorial contributions may be sent to the charity of your choice or to the Francis Whitaker Foundation, 1493 County Rd 106, Carbondale, CO, 81623. The foundation supports educational activities in the field of blacksmithing.

FOURTH BIENNIAL JOINT MEETING RMTC, SWTCA, M-WTCA AREA L

Albuquerque, NM - September 2, 3, 4

SHAVINGS, SAWDUST & SPLINTERS

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Editor: Cliff Fales

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Send material for publication and
address changes to Cliff Fales, 1435
South Urban Way, Lakewood, CO
80228

CLASSIFIED

WANTED: Don Biays would like to hear again from the person who contacted him about trading a Keen Kutter plane.

Welcome, New Members!

Fred Berkman (Golden, CO)

Stephen Butti (Loveland, CO)

Wayne Frame (Longmont, CO)

Lewis Hartswick (Albuquerque, NM)

Cliff Knappenberger (Broomfield, CO)

John Krentz (Cheyenne Wells, CO)

Charles Millar (Bernalillo, NM)

Alvin Nelson (Longmont, CO)

Anthony Panagakos (Alb., NM)

Randy Pullen (Loveland, CO)

Linda Tuin (Paonia, CO)

Wayne Wagner (Littleton, CO)

FEBRUARY NEW MEXICO AREA MEETING

The February meeting at the home of Dan and Evelyn Woodford had a great turnout with 19 collectors attending, including three guests, two of whom joined Rocky Mountain Tool Collectors.

Once again the meeting was held in Dan's basement tool room. Dan's collection has grown considerably since our last meeting there. If it gets much larger, he will have to expand the tool room. (How do you add on to a basement?)

Not to be outdone, Dan had prepared six gallons of chile con carne. It was great! After all, this is New Mexico. I wonder what they serve at tool collectors' meetings in China? At any rate no one was hungry again an hour later.

Drew Goodman gave an interesting talk on planes and also conducted our usual mystery raffle with the proceeds going to the host to help defray refreshment and cleanup and redecorating costs.

After I left the meeting, someone showed up with a box full of new beryllium claw hammers which he was selling for \$15 each. The beryllium element mixed with copper and nickel forms a tough light alloy resembling brass. It was formerly called glucinium. Aren't you glad you asked? You probably know that when grinding or polishing this metal, one should not aspirate the dust as it is carcinogenic.

Our next local meeting will be at the home of Drew and Loretta Goodmann where we will have a talk on unusual tools by an unusual speaker; try not to miss it if you can.

-Bill McDougall

See you
in Trinidad!

DAVID HARROUN TAKES AN APPRENTICE

*This Indenture Witnesseth that Simeon Wood of Ashfield in the County of
Dorset in the Kingdom of England doth bind his son Joseph Wood apprentice to David
Harroun the son of Simeon Wood husbandry with him after the manner of an apprentice
during the term of twelve years, five month, twenty-four days next ensuing, till he is
the said apprentice his said master faithfully shall serve his secrets Keep all his law
to no damage to his said master nor let it to be done by others without give notice
his master shall not lend them unlawfully to any he shall not commit fornication nor
contract matrimony at any time or any other unlawfull game whereby his said master
shall be damaged but in all things Behave himself day or night from his said master's
service unlawfully nor haunt Ale houses and Taverns or play house? but in all things Behave himself as a faithful apprentice in the Business he now followeth and the said
Master shall Procure and provide for him sufficient meat drink apparel lodging washing and all other necessaries during the said term and shall learn the said apprentice to read, write and cipher if capable of learning and the said Master at the expiration of his term shall give said apprentice two suits of clothes from head to foot one Suitable for Everyday the other for lord's days and for the performance of all and every the said Covenants and Agreements either of the said Parties Bindeth himself unto the other firmly by these presents in witness whereof they have hereunto set their hands and seals interchangeably this Seventeenth day of February in the Ninth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third King of Great Britain, France and Ireland and in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Nine.*

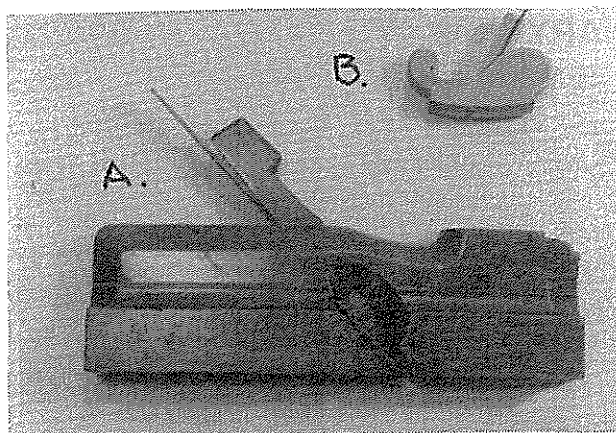
A portion of the Harroun apprenticeship document

This indenture witnesseth that Simeon Wood of Ashfield in the County of Hampshire Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Carpenter, doth bind his son Joseph Wood apprentice to David Harroun of Colrain in the County a born freeman to learn the art of Farming or Husbandry with him after the manner of an apprentice to serve from the day of the date hereon forth during the term of twelve years, five month, twenty-four days next ensuing, till he is twenty-one years of age during all which term the said Apprentice his Master Faithfully shall serve his secrets Keep all his lawful command every where gladly so he shall do no damage to his said Master nor see it to be done by others without giving notice thereof to his said Master he shall not waste his the Master's goods nor lend them unlawfully to any he shall not commit Fornication nor contract Matrimony during the said term he shall not play at any dice or any other unlawfull game whereby his said Master shall be damaged with his own goods nor the goods of others he shall not absent himself day or night from his said Master's service unlawfully nor haunt Ale houses and Taverns or play house? but in all things Behave himself as a faithful apprentice in the Business he now followeth and the said Master shall Procure and provide for him sufficient meat drink apparel lodging washing and all other necessaries during the said term and shall learn the said apprentice to read, write and cipher if capable of learning and the said Master at the expiration of his term shall give said apprentice two suits of clothes from head to foot one Suitable for Everyday the other for lord's days and for the performance of all and every the said Covenants and Agreements either of the said Parties Bindeth himself unto the other firmly by these presents in witness whereof they have hereunto set their hands and seals interchangeably this Seventeenth day of February in the Ninth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third King of Great Britain, France and Ireland and in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Nine.

David Harroun was the great, great, great grandfather of our member, Herman Harroun. Herman has done a super job of deciphering this legal document written in 1769. It was written in a very small hand, all in one sentence, very little punctuation and with odd spellings. Therefore it is presented, as nearly as we can tell, just as it was originally written. (Ed.) - submitted by Herman Harroun

EARLY DUTCH TOOLS

by Bob Finch



I've always admired early Dutch tools. The Dutch seem to have had a flair for decorative detail that was "just right"; not so gaudy as some of the early German and French tools, nor quite so austere as English and American ones. They were the most consistent of the Europeans in quality, practicality, and appearance of their tools, but for some reason their designs did not stray far from home.

The Dutch Planemakers' Guild carefully controlled the design features of the planes produced by their members, requiring them to follow Guild-approved patterns. Notice the details of the short jointer, or *voorlouperschaaf*, illustrated at J:

- The top surface of the plane is gently curved from front to back, with the depth at the mouth about 3/8" more than at either end. This characteristic was shared with several other continental countries.
- The shape of the fore-end handle. This distinctive shape has been used on Dutch bench planes almost unchanged for about 300 years.
- The elaborate rear handle, or "tote". The plane is probably late 18th or early 19th century, and is a somewhat simplified pattern from that used in the 17th.

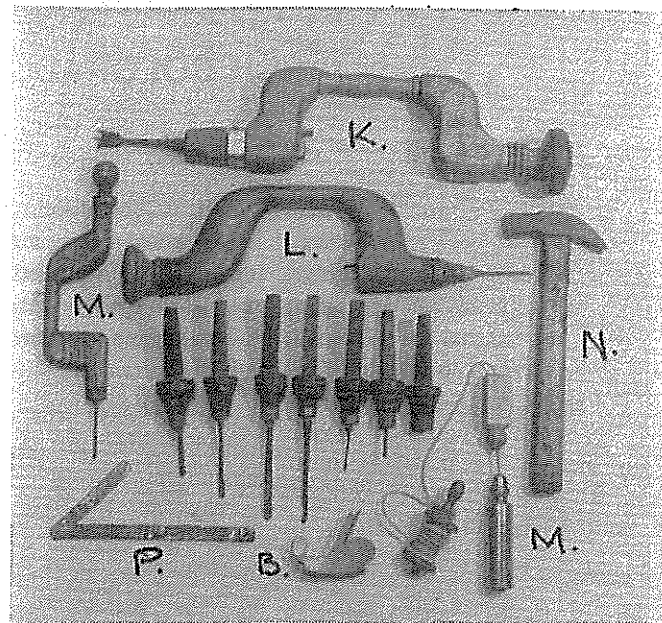
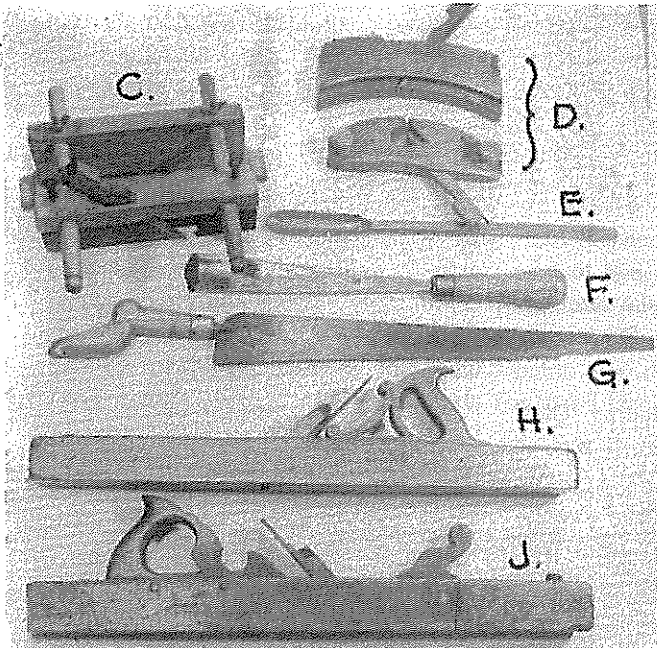
The jointer shown at H, incidentally, was probably not made by a Guild member, and does not follow their standards. It does illustrate another typical Dutch feature, the pierced and scrolled decoration of some of their tools. The same maker made the matched pair of radius planes, D. These follow approximately the specifications for their moulding planes, but are enough different to make them suspect.

The standard Dutch moulding plane, (*profielshaven*) shown at A, is even more distinctive than their bench planes. Some of their standard features were:

- A smoothly curved depression just ahead of the wedge. Though it was usually too shallow for an effective grip, it added a graceful profile to the plane.
- A tiny chamfer, 1/16" or so, at the top forward edge of the wedge mortise. This small detail was highly effective in preventing checks from developing at the corners of the mortise. Except for a few early 18th century American makers, this great improvement seems to have gone almost unnoticed by the rest of the world's planemakers.
- A smooth, egg-shaped, egg sized, shaving escapement channel—a considerable improvement over Anglo-American and French designs, which were tight and angular, and much more susceptible to "choking" with shavings.
- Purely decorative design features include the 5/8" x 20° chamfers, with their carefully detailed stop-cuts, and the decoration on the top front corner, or "nose" of the plane. The Guild-approved standard here called for a quarter-ellipse with squares, on the profile of the plane, and the easily recognized triple gouge cuts parallel to the sole. Notice that the center of these gouge cuts is invariably made by a flat-bottomed, or so-called "macaroni" gouge.

The Dutch Thumb Plane (*Gerfschaafjes*) shown at B is an unusually handsome sleigh-shaped plane, with a scrolled front horn. This particular plane in round both ways, is a beautiful mellow yellow boxwood, and was probably used by a carver or an instrument maker. The same profile was used in smoothing planes up to 7" or 8" long. This family of planes seems to be universally admired and sought after by tool collectors.

The *Vaarken*, a Dutch word for "hog" is illustrated at C. This plane often mistaken for a cabinet plough, has no counterpart in any other country's tools, that I'm aware of. It has a very narrow blade, usually about 1/4", which is capable of making cuts up to 3" deep or so. It is used much as we would use a table saw, to make a large rabbet, as in an exterior door jamb



Many Dutch spoon augers or *lepelavegars*, were shaped with a slight pilot point to aid in starting the hole, as at E, unlike most of the early European spoon augers. Spoons used in making the familiar "klompen", or wooden shoes, were the exception, being short and more nearly hemispherical.

Early chisels and gouges (*beitels*) used by the Dutch most often had a distinctive flared shape, as at F, perhaps to aid in clearing the tool from a deep mortise.

The prototype of the Anglo-American type hand saw, or *handzagen*, i.e., an unsupported blade, cutting on the push stroke, may very well have originated in the Netherlands. Early saws such as at G had a pistol grip affixed to the tapered blade by a tang. Such saws had been in occasional use since Roman times, but the Dutch were among the first to make general use of them.

Another attractive family of tools from early Holland are their braces. The ordinary carpenter's brace, or *Booromslagen*, is easily recognized by its "question mark" shape, its rather small breast knob, and its turned square shanked wooden bit pads, usually held in place with a spring catch (see at L). A special form of brace was called a *spykebohrer*, usually a diminutive brace 6 or 7 inches long, with a spherical head and a fixed gimlet bit, as at M. These took the place of an English gimlet, and seem much handier to use. A few of this type were as large as a regular brace, with bits 1/2" or more in diameter. The brace shown at K is a mass produced brace (it even has a model number stamped on it), offered as late as the 1920's.

Dutch plumb bobs were often cylindrical, with a flat bottom, as at M. Their most noticeable design feature, shared by several European countries, was the use of a wooden spacer block of the same, or slightly larger, dimension as the bob's diameter, permitting the user to check a wall or column for plumb without the large and cumbersome "plumb stick" used by the British and the Americans.

Dutch claw hammers (shown at N) usually made use of the very practical fore and aft iron handle straps, or "languets". These resist moment, and thus breakage, at the handle eye; a far superior design than the English "strap hammer," which incorporated straps rivetted to the sides of the handle. Rivets so-placed tended to split, and ultimately break, the handle.

A peculiar design feature of some Dutch folding 1-foot rules (*duimstoks*) is the hinge at the third-point, as at P. The reason for this is not known, but is thought to be associated with ship building. The present example is made of copper, supporting the ship building connection. The foot, in this case, measures about 11 5/8 English inches long, one of the early Dutch standards.

* * * * *

Many of the distinctive design features of early Dutch wooden tools seem to be a considerable bit more practical and more attractive than their counterparts on the Continent, in England, or in America. How strange that some of these features were not more widely adopted.

MARCH COLORADO AREA MEETING

HOST: PHIL WHITBY

I would have bet that our Host Phil Whitby and Layla thought Ma Nature had forsaken the RMTC on the morning of March 20th. However by meeting time all was well - I do believe the old girl was just reminding us not to take her for granted! Anyway she may have considered the lavish buffet prepared by Layla and everyone knows that thing about a women scorned! Phil, Layla, THANKS, everything was exquisite !!!!

This meeting was marred by the untimely passing of friend and member Ray Rossi. Vice President Dennis Scheel led us in a moment of silence in memory of Ray. We will surely miss Ray!

The 70+ tool enthusiasts in attendance were treated to a demonstration by DON BIAYS on the use of the Bayley core box plane. According to P-TAM-PIA, John E. McCauley of Springfield Ohio was granted patent number 751,671 in 1904 and the plane was manufactured by William D. Bayley also of Springfield. This is a new addition to Dons collection and a worthy one at that. Thanks a bunch for sharing this fascinating tool with us!

For those who desired to add to their

collection, this meeting was a bonanza. There were many, many unusual tools and of course, like others, I had to take uncontrollable advantage of the offerings - beans without the pork for us for awhile.

The displays were outstanding. DON JORDON went all out. First off was an outstanding display of 13 bevel gauges, not one, that I saw, was run of the mill! As if this wasn't enough he set up another table of exquisite miscellany. Included was a rare Woodrough & McParlin, Cincinnati 'panther head saw', Baldwin patented plane (Boston Metallic Plane Co), Best Tool Co reciprocal drill, Rice patent veneer cutter, Stanley #83 rule and to top it off the only known example of a Dixie spokeshave - Whew. FRANK HOLLAND brought the only German jointer plane I have ever seen. Not having a rule, in hand that is, I would guess it to be 24"-26" in length and of late 19th ca.. Great find, CHUCK PADDOCK let us drool on his, close to, if not complete, set of Phelps pattern makers plane soles, with the plane. This plane was a product of Phelps Mfg. Co., Oakland Ca. circa 1924-1943. Chuck also had what appeared to be an Alumi-

num Stanley plane mounted with one of the Phelps soles. Included with this display were a collection of machinists micrometers. I hereby apologize to Chuck as I meant to talk to him about these but 'it wasn't my day'. Apologies also to DENNIS SCHEEL who's display I only had a quick glance and was distracted. (seems I was more unconscious than usual). However I did see a recent acquisition over which Dennis had previously expressed excitement. This being a brass Hydrometer, complete in the box, which is used by wineries.? There were many other items on Dennis' table, I hope members did a better job of observing than I!! JOHN GOSS had an unusual wrench by Van Orhmer Co of Pa., but no known data on maker or the wrench. He was also gloating over his find of a Harper & Housman, Denver Co plow plane. This plane was certainly made by Ohio Tool Co. Thanks all for sharing !!!!

Auction time: First off were the members tools and there were some good ones. Needless to say things went well - Hallelujah! We also had 30 more items from the Atkinson Estate with some good and unusual items. As usual interest picked up and these items also brought home the bacon.

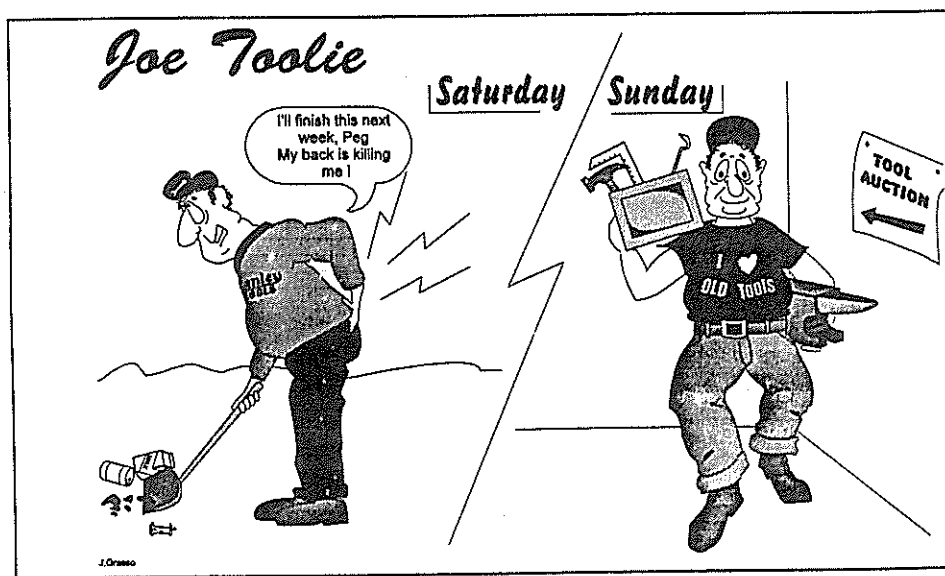
Hope to see you all in Loveland on the 10th of April - BRING A DISPLAY !

- John Goss

from the editor:

Thanks this time go to Herman Harroun for the interesting apprenticeship document out of his family history. Thanks also to Bob Finch for making available the material on Early Dutch Tools which previously appeared in his TWO CHISELERS tool catalog. I hope those of you who do not get to the area meetings continue to appreciate the area meeting news provided by John Goss and Bill McDougall even more than those of us who are at those meetings.

-Cliff Fales



Courtesy of Long Island Area Tool Collectors Association

JANUARY COLORADO AREA MEETING

Co-Hosts Bill Teasley, John Gilmore & Doc Loyd

Golden DAR Pioneer Museum, Golden CO

Of course January 23, 1994 was sunny and a warm 64'. Ma Nature loves RMTc. And so it seems do our hosts, "The Three Amigos" - Bill Teasley, John Gilmore and Doc Loyd. We know they are trustworthy, or Erna Weiss, director of the Golden DAR Pioneer Museum wouldn't have graciously opened their doors to us for the second time in two years. 'The Guys' tempted our pallets with a crock pot of weenies & beans, chips and some out of this world pastries. While I am passing out thank-you's, I doubt that I would be incorrect including the Three Amigos spouses! To all the above goes a great big THANKS !!

Since it was such a great day we set up outside the museum. The attendance was 50+ and it was, as usual, great to have so many spouses with us! It is especially gratifying to have so many long distance members in attendance. From Glenwood Springs, Smitty Smith, Brian and Polly Hopple of Buena Vista, Dave Ferrand and Barbara Wood of Rifle, Old Faithfuls Dick and Sue Dickerson of Cheyenne; and forgive me if I left you out. Kinda 'makes ya feel special' and hard not to get a swelled head when folks travel these distances to keep your company!

As is the norm, trading and talking passed the day and to add to this enjoyment, Rex Rideout gave a great demonstration of "wood shingle making". Quite a talented 'Renaissance' craftsman this Rideout fellow is. He presented us with pictures and a magazine story when (I not sure but I believe in previous life) he earned a living making shingles and building log homes. Just observing Rex handle the tools was enough to make me a believer.

We again had some wonderful displays. Unfortunately they are by the same folks as last meeting and the meeting before etc. etc.. Let's all try to bring at least one item for display - be it found yesterday or yesteryear, it's fun to see

what you've been collecting. Dennis Scheel came up with some new old items for his coopers collection - a most interesting double bitted boring tool used to bore holes for dowels in barrel heads. Dennis also displayed a marking gauge for barrel heads and some unused bungs, set of stave gauges and a unusual bung auger. Cliff Fales displayed a salesman's sample 2' two fold rule made by P. Ashton, Birmingham Eng., three ivory rules and a 12" Davis inclinometer level. Don Biays displayed K2 and K2C Keen-Kutter planes, which he points out look very 'Bedrockish'. Also displayed by Don were two very early Bailey planes and an assortment of other tools. Dave Miller had an unusual block plane marked only 120 on the body; the Iron was marked Standard Rule - patented Oct. 30, 188_. Dick Dickerson showed up with what appears to be an 18th century (user made?) panel raiser. John Goss brought a washboard plane and three Sandusky (special) weather strip planes. Great job guys and thanks for sharing!! Bring a tool for display and see your name in print and described by the famous RMTc scribe.

It came to member auction time and as usual there was the excitement of

indescribable silence that always seems to sweep over the crowd. It went well. - well it went. Next we had 30 more items from the Atkinson estate. Dave, how come we hold the members auction during nap time? Seems maybe we brought in a new crowd but, believe it or not, there was some frenzied bidding.

I must also point out before closing that Grace had promised me a real Christmas gift this year - you know, something other than 6 cowboy handkerchiefs - these replaced the ties I quit wearing 20 years ago. Well, I didn't get nuttin! Seems Ray, without my knowledge had been given a commission by Grace. Ray didn't make the target date but actually I can't complain, as at the January meeting Ray presented me with a masterfully crafted blade for a hand carved knife handle I had procured in the Yukon some years prior. Those who saw this masterpiece of blacksmithing know why I have no complaints and why I will be proud to have this knife as a fond remembrance of Ray.

Fingers are tired - Head is dead - see you in March at Phil Whitbys!!!

-John Goss

DENVER PARKING LOT SALE

An opportunity for sellers - and buyers too!

Our annual Woodcraft Tool Sale will be held on June 4th 1994 at the Woodcraft store - 4403 So. Tamarac Parkway (I-225 & Tamarac).

Our ad has already appeared in Woodcraft's newsletter and flyers have been passed out at the March & April Colorado Area meetings.

The cost will be based on the number of participants who wish to sell. Last year it was \$15. You can sell anything tool related at this sale - workbenches, power tools, hand tools, antique tools, farm tools, wrenches, books & catalogs, you name it!

So come on out June 4th from 9:00 to 4:30 and sell up a storm!

If you need more info call Dennis Scheel at 791-1010 (work) or 690-7447 (home).

-Dennis Scheel